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Training and research

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled

"Training and research:

"(a) United Nations University;

"(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 27th, 31st, 37th, 38th and 44th meetings, on 7, 12, 18 and 20 November and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.27, 31, 37, 38 and 44). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 8th meetings, from 30 September to 3 October (see A/C.2/57/SR.2-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Council of the United Nations University;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University (A/57/589);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 31* (A/57/31).

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(c) Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;[2]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/57/479).

4. At the 27th meeting, on 7 November, introductory statements were made by the Rector of the United Nations University and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (see A/C.2/57/SR.27).

5. At the 37th meeting, on 18 November, the Director of the United Nations University Office in New York also made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/57/SR.37).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.48

6. At the 38th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations University" (A/C.2/57/L.48). Subsequently, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Lebanon, Malta, Mongolia, Paraguay, Peru and Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At the 39th meeting, on 27 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Bruno van der Pluijm (Belgium) informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.48 (see para. 15, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.35 and A/C.2/57/L.93

9. At the 31st meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/57/L.35), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* its resolutions 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999, 55/208 of 20 December 2000 and 56/208 of 21 December 2001,
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> "*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 14* (A/57/14).

"*Expressing its appreciation* to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

"*Noting with concern* that contributions to the General Fund have not increased while the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing,

"*Noting* that the Institute receives no subsidy from the United Nations regular budget and that it provides training programmes to all Member States free of charge,

"*Reiterating* the need to accord training activities a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

"1. *Reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States and the relevance of the training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

"2. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to strengthen further its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

"3. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and in this context underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of those partnerships, in particular at the country level;

"4. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

"5. *Stresses* the limited capacity of the Institute to pay its rental rates and administrative costs as a result of decreased funding, as well as the need to ensure that the Institute is treated in a manner similar to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development;

"6. *Decides* that in order for the Institute to play effectively its role in training and research activities, the United Nations will assume the rental and maintenance cost burden of the Institute;

"7. *Decides also* that the general administrative, personnel and financial services of the United Nations shall be utilized by the Institute on conditions determined in consultation between the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the Institute, it being understood that the space occupied by the Institute is provided by the United Nations free of rent and maintenance charges;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

10. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.35, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/57/L.50).

11. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Bruno van der Pluijm (Belgium) introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/57/L.93), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.35.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the statement of programme budget implications, as contained in document A/C.2/57/L.50, did not apply to draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.93.

13. Also at its 44th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.93 (see para. 15, draft resolution II).

14. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.93, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.35 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

15. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University, including resolution 55/206 of 20 December 2000,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University[3] and the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University,[4]

Bearing in mind the importance of the intellectual contributions made by the University for the United Nations system, which tackles various global issues,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the implementation of the "Strategic Plan, 2000: Advancing Knowledge for Human Security and Development", which lays out broad programmatic orientations with special focus on the priority concerns of the United Nations and the need to bring together theory and practice in a global perspective, and requests the United Nations University to continue to attach importance to the priority agendas of the United Nations system;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the steps taken by the Council and the Rector of the University to promote the work and visibility of the University and to

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 31* (A/57/31).
[4] A/57/589.

enhance and diversify its interaction with and contributions to the work of the United Nations, and encourages them to continue such efforts;

3. *Compliments* the University on its success to date towards creating a critical mass of viable research and training centres and programmes around the world, focused in particular on meeting the urgent needs and concerns of developing countries;

4. *Welcomes* the increasing importance being attached by the University to capacity development, particularly in developing countries;

5. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the broadening participation in the joint initiative by the University and the United Nations Office at Geneva to convene a yearly research and policy dialogue that is thematically focused and involves the United Nations system and other entities engaged in policy research and analysis;

6. *Welcomes* the increasing number of offers for new collaborative arrangements with the University, which contributes to broadening and enhancing academic networking, as a sign of its success and enhanced profile;

7. *Encourages* the University to implement the Secretary-General's suggestion on innovative measures to improve interaction and communication between the University and other United Nations entities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage other bodies of the United Nations system to utilize more fully the capacity of the University for mobilizing a worldwide network of applied policy researchers to assist the Organization, through research and capacity development, in resolving the pressing global problems of the day;

9. *Emphasizes* the continuing need to ensure efficiency and cost-effectiveness in conducting the activities of the University;

10. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, including its research and training centres and programmes, in particular to its Endowment Fund, as a means of consolidating the distinctive identity of the University in the United Nations system and the international scientific community;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session an item entitled "United Nations University".

Draft resolution II
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999, 55/208 of 20 December 2000 and 56/208 of 21 December 2001,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[5] and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,[6]

[5] A/57/479.

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 14* (A/57/14).

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting with concern that contributions to the General Fund have not increased while the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing,

Noting that the Institute receives no subsidy from the United Nations regular budget and that it provides training programmes to all Member States free of charge,

Reiterating the need to accord training activities a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States and the relevance of the training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

2. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to strengthen further its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and in this context underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of those partnerships, in particular at the country level;

4. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

5. *Stresses* the need to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Institute as it relates to its debt and rent and maintenance costs;

6. *Regrets* the simultaneous submission of the report of the Secretary-General to the Second and Fifth Committees at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

7. *Emphasizes* that, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee is the appropriate committee within which to consider the issue of reclassification of rental rates and maintenance costs charged to the Institute, and recognizes that the Fifth Committee will deliberate on the debt and reclassifying the rental rates and maintenance costs charged to the Institute, taking into consideration its financial situation as well as privileges offered to other, comparable organizations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.